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Mar 18, 2003

US-PAT-NO: 6534630

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6534630 B1

TITLE: Connective tissue growth factor-2 **BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

DATE-ISSUED: March 18, 2003

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

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US-CL-CURRENT: 530/350; 435/455, 435/6, 435/69.1, 435/69.7, 530/300

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) amino acids 1 to 381 of SEQ ID NO:2; (b) amino acids 2 to 381 of SEQ ID NO:2; (c) amino acids 25 to 381 of SEQ ID NO:2; and (d) a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment stimulates cellular proliferation.
2. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is (a).
3. The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
4. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is (b).
5. The polypeptide of claim 4, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
6. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is (c).
7. The polypeptide of claim 6, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
8. The polypeptide of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is (d).
9. The polypeptide of claim 8, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
10. The polypeptide of claim 2, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
11. An isolated polypeptide comprising a first amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to a second amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) amino acids 1 to 381 of SEQ ID NO:2; (b) amino acids 2 to 381 of SEQ ID NO:2; (c) amino acids 25 to 381 of SEQ ID NO:2; and (d) a polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide or polypeptide fragment stimulates cellular proliferation.

12. The polypeptide of claim 11, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (a).
13. The polypeptide of claim 12, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
14. The polypeptide of claim 11, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (b).
15. The polypeptide of claim 14, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
16. The polypeptide of claim 11, wherein ~~the said second amino acid sequence is~~ **BEST AVAILABLE CQ7** (c).
17. The polypeptide of claim 16, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
18. The polypeptide of claim 11, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (d).
19. The polypeptide of claim 18, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
20. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 75804; (b) the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide, lacking the N-terminal methionine, encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 75804; (c) the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 75804; and (d) a polypeptide fragment of the polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 75804, wherein said fragment stimulates cellular proliferation.
21. The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said amino acid sequence is (a).
22. The polypeptide of claim 21, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
23. The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said amino acid sequence is (b).
24. The polypeptide of claim 23, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
25. The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said amino acid sequence is (c).
26. The polypeptide of claim 25, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
27. The polypeptide of claim 20, wherein said amino acid sequence is (d).
28. The polypeptide of claim 27, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.
29. An isolated polypeptide comprising a first amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to a second amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (a) the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 75904; (b) the amino acid sequence of the full-length polypeptide, lacking the N-terminal methionine, encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 75904; (c) the amino acid sequence of the mature polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 75904; and (d) a polypeptide fragment of the polypeptide encoded by the human cDNA contained in ATCC Deposit Number 75904;

wherein said polypeptide or polypeptide fragment stimulates cellular proliferation.

30. The polypeptide of claim 29, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (a).

31. The polypeptide of claim 30, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

32. The polypeptide of claim 29, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (b).

33. The polypeptide of claim 32, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

34. The polypeptide of claim 29, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (c).

35. The polypeptide of claim 34, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

36. The polypeptide of claim 29, wherein said second amino acid sequence is (d).

37. The polypeptide of claim 36, wherein the amino acid sequence is fused to a heterologous polypeptide.

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